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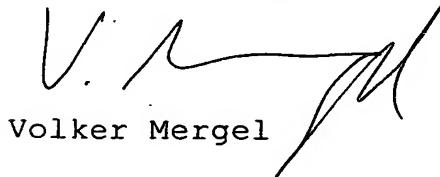
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New U.S. Patent Application in the name of Molex Incorporated

Dear Mr. Collins:

Please find enclosed a copy of the official English
translation of the preliminary report on patentability by
the European Patent Office for your files.

Very truly yours,



Volker Mergel

Encl.

TRANSLATION PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 03MO 0408WOP	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/EP2005/000590	International filing date (day/month/year) 21.01.2005	Priority date (day/month/year) 27.01.2004
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G02B6/42		
Applicant MOLEX INCORPORATED		

<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>5</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of <u>9</u> sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s))</p> <p>containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p>																
<p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <table> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. I Basis of the report</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. II Priority</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability: citations and explanations supporting such statement</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VI Certain documents cited</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</td> </tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I Basis of the report	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II Priority	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability: citations and explanations supporting such statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI Certain documents cited	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application															

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2005/000590

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____ which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:

international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
 international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report):

the international application as originally filed/furnished
 the description:

pages 1, 2, 4-19 as originally filed/furnished

pages* 3, 3a received by this Authority on 29.11.2004 with letter of 21.11.2004

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the claims:

nos. _____ as originally filed/furnished

nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

nos.* 1-24 received by this Authority on 29.11.2004 with letter of 21.11.2004

nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the drawings:

sheets 1/11-11/11 _____ as originally filed/furnished

sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____

sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages _____
 the claims, nos. 25 _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (specify): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

the description, pages _____
 the claims, nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (specify): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2005/000590

Box No. V **Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-24	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-24	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-24	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

1. Reference is made to the following document:

D1: EP-A-1 170 609 (YAZAKI CORPORATION) 9 January 2002.

2. Document D1 is considered the prior art closest to the subject matter of claim 1. It discloses (the references between parentheses relate to D1):

2.1 An optical connector (1) for establishing a connection between an electro-optical transducer (8, 9) of the connector (1) and at least one optical fibre of a complementary counter-connector (5), comprising:

a connector housing (2) having a counter-connector housing (20),
 an optical fibre section (28),
 a connection element (19) with a fibre-receiving sleeve (22),
 wherein the optical fibre section (28) is fixed in place in the fibre-receiving sleeve (22) by means of clamp elements (21).

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Box No. V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

2.2 The subject matter of claim 1 therefore differs from the known optical connector in that

the clamp elements are at a longitudinal distance from the front optical connection surface of the optical fibre section, or

the fibre-receiving sleeve near the front optical connection surface of the optical fibre section has a contact surface for the complementary connecting element of the counter-connector, and the clamp elements are at a longitudinal distance from the front side of the fibre-receiving sleeve.

Consequently, the subject matter of claim 1 is novel (PCT Article 33(2)).

2.3 The problem to be solved by the present invention is therefore understood to be that of avoiding the risk of deformation, and hence of impairment, of the optical fibre at its optical contact surface.

2.4 The solution to this problem, as proposed in claim 1 of the present application, involves an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)), for the following reasons:

There is no prior art document which discloses clamp elements disposed at a longitudinal distance from the front optical contact surface of the optical fibre section or of the contact surface of the fibre-receiving sleeve, in order to solve the

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International application No.
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Box No. V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

problem of interest.

3. For the same reasons the subject matter of claim 23 is likewise novel (PCT Article 33(2)) and involves an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).
4. Claims 2-22 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore likewise meet the PCT requirements for novelty and inventive step.
5. Claim 24 is dependent on claim 23 and therefore likewise meets the PCT requirements for novelty and inventive step.